



JOSH COLLINS

AGE: 17 years old FROM: England

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: COMMUNITY AWARENESS | LEADERSHIP | CONFIDENCE | GRATITUDE | CITIZENSHIP

“Underpinning all my social action is my faith and heritage.”

I have been a member of the Jewish Lads’ and Girls’ Brigade (JLGB) since 2013 and volunteer weekly with my local group, planning and executing sessions and teaching others how to run meaningful programmes. I ensure the young people I work with have their voices heard, representing their wishes and feelings and being a link between staff and the younger members.

Following a speech to my peers and a peer vote I have recently been elected this year’s Sergeant Mess President, meaning I am now the most senior leader and a prominent figurehead within the organisation. I am proud to be a role model to my peers.

I was introduced to JLGB by my school and having got a lot out of it myself I now use my youth voice to encourage others at school to get involved.

I have also volunteered with the Jewish charity GIFT helping to pack food, clothes and toys for people in need across the

country. This sparked my passion for taking part in social action.

At school I was elected head of the charity committee and recently led the committee in organising a charity dinner for the whole sixth form, raising vital funds for three charities.

Underpinning all my social action is my faith and heritage. I have taken many opportunities to explore my roots, including a trip to Poland to visit the poignant Holocaust memorial sites. I speak to young people at religious Holocaust memorial services, encouraging them to explore their identities and passing on the legacies of my ancestors.

I love seeing the positive difference I make to other people’s lives. I have progressed from being a volunteer to pitching social action ideas at a peer level, encouraging friends to get involved.

I have been awarded a vinspired v50 award.

